



U.S. Coral Triangle Initiative Support Program

Supporting countries of the Coral Triangle region to sustain their marine resources

Supporting Local Governments in the Coral Triangle

PROJECT BRIEF

Where is the Coral Triangle?

The Coral Triangle encompasses almost six million square kilometers of ocean and coastal waters surrounding Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. It is considered the global epicenter of marine biodiversity—home to over 500 species of reef-building corals and 3,000 species of fish. The Coral Triangle faces multiple threats such as unplanned coastal development, over-fishing and climate change that severely impact food security and employment opportunities of the 120 million people that depend on this resource.

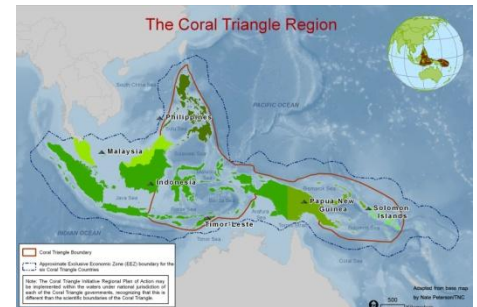
What is the Coral Triangle Initiative?

To avert the risks threatening the Coral Triangle's marine ecosystem, the six Coral Triangle countries came together in 2007 to form the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI)—a multilateral partnership that aims to safeguard the marine and coastal resources of the Coral Triangle region. Under the CTI, the Coral Triangle countries adopted a Regional Plan of Action with five goals: 1) strengthening management of seascapes; 2) application of ecosystem approach to fisheries management; 3) developing and strengthening the management of marine protected areas; 4) implementing climate change adaptation measures; and 5) protecting threatened marine species. These goals are supported by clear sets of actions and timelines to specifically address regional marine resource conservation and sustainability priorities.

Why is it important to support local governments in sustaining the Coral Triangle?

The CTI Regional Plan of Action encourages local governments and communities to engage in coastal management activities needed to achieve its five marine resource conservation and sustainability goals. Local governments are in the front lines in managing their marine and coastal resources. They are often the first to respond to threats including illegal and destructive fishing practices, as well as land-based threats such as siltation, industrial and agricultural waste.

With climate change, coastal management has become even more of an imperative for many local governments. Coastal communities are inherently vulnerable to natural hazards, and climate change increases their vulnerability to various stressors, including coral bleaching, ocean acidification, sea level rise, and droughts or floods that create more siltation.



CORAL TRIANGLE COUNTRIES

Indonesia
Malaysia
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Solomon Islands
Timor-Leste



Mayors and local leaders from the Coral Triangle at the first CTI Regional Exchange on fisheries management in June 2009
Photo Credit: US CTI



How is the U.S. Government supporting local governments in the Coral Triangle?

The US Government, through the US CTI Support Program, is supporting local governments by enhancing local leaders' capacity; providing on-the ground support in establishing marine protected areas and implementing climate change adaptation plans; and facilitating learning exchanges through the CTI Local Governance Network (CTI-LGN) so that local government leaders can learn from each others' experiences.

Development of the CTI Local Governance Network

The CTI began engaging local government leaders at the regional level in June-July 2009 in Cebu, Philippines, when representatives from the six Coral Triangle countries participated in a regional exchange that showcased local government initiatives in coastal resource management. Inspired by the exchange, the Mayor of Wakatobi in Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia hosted a roundtable for the local government leaders of the Coral Triangle countries to begin discussions on how local governments in the region can contribute to the goals of CTI.

In December 2009, local government leaders from across Indonesia attended a national dialogue and signed the "Wakatobi Commitment" – an agreement to safeguard their coastal and marine resources as a service to their constituents. Five months later, 36 local government leaders from all Coral Triangle countries gathered in Wakatobi for the first **CTI Mayors Roundtable** and signed a **communiqué** formalizing their commitment to advocate for stronger policies that protect marine resources in the Coral Triangle. In September 2011 nine provincial premiers from the Solomon Islands and the mayor of the capital Honiara signed a **communiqué** to collaborate in protecting the environment and to support communities-based efforts to manage their resources.

Joint Communiqué

WE, the representatives of local governments - municipal, local level governments, provinces, districts, cities, and states - local government associations and partners from the six member countries of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) who participated in the Mayors Round Table held in Wakatobi, Indonesia on 16-19 May 2011 agree to collaborate; share information, experience and expertise; and advocate policies to achieve the goals of the CTI-CFF. Toward this end, we have developed this Vision: By 2016, we see ourselves as resourced, innovative, informed, and effective local governments collaborating, sharing information, experience and expertise, and advocating policies to achieve the goals of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security.

Furthermore, we agree to undertake the following actions in the next two years:

- 1) Meet regularly in a CTI-CFF Mayors Round Table to be co-hosted by NCC and a local government, local government alliance, or local government association in each CT6 country;
- 2) Promote awareness or understanding among local governments and other local stakeholders about the CTI-CFF;
- 3) Identify a CTI-CFF local government focal point in each country to liaise with and advocate representation on the NCC, as well as coordinate with CTI-CFF local government focal points in other member countries;
- 4) Explore opportunities for regional dialogue on best practices, exchange, and collaboration of expertise among member countries in local environmental governance, sustainable coastal management, and community resiliency; and
- 5) Identify and develop learning destinations in each country to share experiences and best practices in local environmental governance, sustainable coastal management, and community resiliency.

Signed on 19 May 2011 in Wakatobi, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia.

What is the US CTI Support Program?

The U.S. Agency for International Development is supporting the Coral Triangle Initiative through the five-year US CTI Support Program. The Program assists governments and stakeholders in implementing the CTI Regional Plan of Action; supports development of the CTI Secretariat and national coordinating committees; provides access to U.S. science and research capabilities; and shares best practices among the six Coral Triangle countries. The Program is implemented by the Coral Triangle Support Partnership, a consortium of NGOs led by the World Wildlife Fund and that includes The Nature Conservancy and Conservation International; a Program Integrator; the US State Department; and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The program also works with other donors including the Government of Australia and the Asian Development Bank. For more information about the program, visit www.uscti.org.



Coral Triangle local government leaders take a photo after signing a communiqué advocating for stronger marine resource protection in their constituencies
Photo Credit : US CTI



Solomon Islands premiers and mayor hold their first ever environmental roundtable in Gizo, Western Province
Photo Credit: MECDM

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